

EUROPEAN UNION

Human Rights Council
6th session
(Geneva, 10-28 September 2007)

Explanation of Vote (b.v.) on A/HRC/6/L.9
"From Rhetoric to Reality: A global call for concrete action against Racism,
Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance"

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council.

The EU attaches the highest importance to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and is committed to the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The DDPA underlined that racism and racial discrimination are unfortunately present in all parts of the world and that all victims of these scourges should be treated equally. We therefore regret to see that the draft before us implies that racism is only present in some parts of the world and seems to install a hierarchy between victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We also question the fact that this draft focuses selectively on some specific parts of the DDPA and ignores other important provisions of these documents.

We note with regret that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action has not been fully realized. We should however recognize that significant steps have been taken by various Member States to make progress in the fight against the scourge of racism, something that this draft fails to do.

We also strongly oppose to any attempts to interfere with the management authority of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as it is the case in draft L.9 by attempting to rename and refocus a unit of the OHCHR.

For these reasons, Mr. President, we have no other choice than to call for a vote on L.9 and vote against.

This declaration has been agreed by the European Union as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. President.